IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for processing ~~multimedia data~~ metadata, the metadata comprising essence data and link data, wherein essence data comprises at least one of text, picture, video and audio data, the method comprising the steps of

providing a first metadata item from a metadata database, the first metadata item including first ~~metadata~~ essence data ~~representing information which is directly perceptible by a user~~ and/or ~~metadata~~ link data, wherein the link data ~~which~~ directly or indirectly points to second ~~further~~ essence data different from the first essence data;

transferring the ~~said~~ first ~~metadata~~ essence data and/or said second ~~further~~ essence data ~~being directly or indirectly pointed at by said metadata link data~~ into third ~~new~~ essence data, the third essence data being multimedia data not comprised in metadata;

creating a new file outside the metadata database; and

storing ~~and providing said new~~ the third essence data ~~in a memory~~ into the new file.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~compring~~ the step of editing said first ~~metadata~~ essence data and/or said ~~further~~ second essence data under the control of a graphical user interface.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said second ~~further~~ essence data is included in a second metadata item as ~~second metadata~~ essence data.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ A device for processing ~~multimedia data~~ metadata, the metadata comprising essence data and link data, wherein essence data comprises at least one of text, picture, video and audio data, the device comprising

means for providing a first metadata item from a metadata database, the first metadata item including first ~~metadata~~ essence data ~~representing information which is directly~~

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~~perceptible by a user~~ and/or ~~metadata~~ link data, <u>wherein the link data</u> ~~which~~ directly or indirectly points to ~~further~~ <u>second</u> essence data <u>different from the first essence data</u>;

means for transferring ~~said~~ <u>the</u> first ~~metadata~~ essence data and/or said ~~further~~ <u>second</u> essence data ~~being directly or indirectly pointed at by said metadata link data~~ into ~~new~~ <u>third</u> essence data<u>, the third essence data being multimedia data not comprised in metadata</u>;

<u>means for creating a new file outside the metadata database;</u> and

~~storage~~ means for storing ~~said new~~ <u>the third</u> essence data <u>into the new file</u>.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ <u>The device</u> according to claim 7, further comprising means for editing said ~~new~~ <u>first metadata</u> essence data and/or said ~~further~~ <u>second</u> essence data under the control of a graphical user interface.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ <u>The device</u> according to claim 7, wherein said ~~further~~ <u>second</u> essence data is included in <u>a</u> second metadata <u>item</u> as ~~second metadata~~ essence data.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ <u>The method</u> according to claim 3, further comprising the step of <u>automatically</u> deleting said second metadata <u>item after the third essence data is stored into the new file</u>.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ <u>The device</u> according to claim 9, further comprising means for <u>automatically</u> deleting said second metadata <u>item after the third essence data is stored into the new file</u>.

14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A device for cleaning a metadata database comprising the device for processing metadata as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second essence data is included in a second metadata item also stored in said metadata database, the device further comprising means for deleting from the metadata database the first and/or the second metadata item that was transferred to the third essence data outside the metadata database.

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16. (New) The device according to claim 15, wherein the means for deleting the first and/or second metadata item from the metadata database deletes the first and/or second metadata item automatically from the metadata database upon storing the third essence data in the new file created outside the metadata database.

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of transferring the first essence data and/or said second essence data into third essence data is performed without essence data format transformation.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein in said step of transferring, both the first essence data and the second essence data are combined into said third essence data.

19. (New) A method for cleaning a metadata database comprising the method for processing metadata according to claim 1, wherein the second essence data is included in a second metadata item also stored in said metadata database, the method further comprising the step of deleting from the metadata database the first and/or the second metadata item after it was transferred to the third essence data outside the metadata database.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the step of deleting from the metadata database the first and/or second metadata item is performed automatically upon said step of creating a new file outside the metadata database and storing the third essence data into the new file.